

Louisiana's Uninsured Population: December 2011 Parish-level Forecast

A Report from the 2011 Louisiana Health Insurance Survey

Stephen Barnes, Assistant Professor-Research

Division of Economic Development
Department of Economics
EJ Ourso College of Business
Louisiana State University

Kirby Goidel, Professor

Director of Public Policy Research
Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs
Manship School of Mass Communication
Louisiana State University

Dek Terrell, Freeport-McMoran Professor

Director Division of Economic Development
Department of Economics
E.J. Ourso College of Business
Louisiana State University

Sponsored by

The Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals

December 2011

The Louisiana Health Insurance Survey (LHIS) represents the most comprehensive data collection effort in assessing health insurance coverage in Louisiana. The survey has been conducted every two years since 2003 with analysis from the 2011 LHIS providing the most recent estimates of insurance coverage in the state. Estimates of the percent of adults and children who are uninsured in each parish at the time of the survey were published in a separate report.

The purpose of this report is to present updated uninsured rates for children and adults in each of Louisiana's 64 parishes for December 2011. The basic approach is to build a statistical model to predict the number of uninsured based on socioeconomic characteristics of households using data from all prior LHIS surveys. We then apply this model to predict the impact of changes in socioeconomic characteristics for each parish during the most recent period, June 2011 to December 2011, to predict the change in uninsured rates for children and adults in each parish.

Table 1 contains the estimated percent of uninsured children for both June and December of 2011. Overall, the results suggest only minor changes in the percent of children who are uninsured during this period. The estimated uninsured rate for children fell in 17 parishes, rose in 35 parishes, and was unchanged in remaining 12 parishes. Generally, the estimated changes were .1% to .2%. The largest reduction occurred for Lafourche Parish with an estimated decline from 3.1% to 2.3% of children lacking insurance. The largest estimated increase occurred in West Carroll Parish where the rate rose from 3.1% in June to 3.9% in December.

Table 2 contains similar estimates of the percent uninsured for non-elderly adults. The results show very small changes for adults. For 29 of 64 parishes there was no change in the estimated uninsured rate and most other parishes showed increases of .1%. The one exception was Lafayette Parish where the estimated uninsured rate rose from 20.2% to 21.3%. However, this result should be viewed with caution because the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has announced that there was an error in computing employment data for this parish and that a revised series will be forthcoming. The June 2012 estimates will provide measures that account for this revision.

Table 3 converts the estimated percentage of uninsured adults and children into estimates of the number of uninsured for each group. At first glance, the impact of population differences tends to overshadow differences in the uninsured rates in these results. Upon closer examination the impact of the percent uninsured is more apparent. For example, a comparison of the number of uninsured children in Orleans Parish to Jefferson Parish and East Baton Rouge Parish reveals that impact.

Conclusion

This report generally predicts slight increases in the uninsured rate for both children and adults. The variation across parishes is larger for the children's model than for the adult model. The June 2012 results may provide a better assessment of whether this is forming a persistent pattern or simply reflects short run data changes.

**Table 1: Comparison of December 2011 Forecasts
to Past Estimates of Uninsured Children**

Parish	Region	Jun 2011 Estimates	Dec 2011 Forecast
Jefferson	1	4.0%	3.9%
Orleans	1	5.3%	5.2%
Plaquemines	1	4.6%	4.7%
St. Bernard	1	5.2%	4.9%
Ascension	2	2.1%	2.1%
East Baton Rouge	2	3.5%	3.6%
East Feliciana	2	3.0%	3.1%
Iberville	2	3.6%	3.6%
Pointe Coupee	2	4.5%	4.3%
West Baton Rouge	2	0.5%	0.6%
West Feliciana	2	8.8%	8.7%
Assumption	3	4.1%	4.3%
Lafourche	3	3.1%	2.3%
St. Charles	3	1.6%	1.7%
St. James	3	3.2%	3.4%
St. John The Baptist	3	3.0%	3.1%
St. Mary	3	0.7%	0.9%
Terrebonne	3	3.1%	3.1%
Acadia	4	3.5%	3.6%
Evangeline	4	0.8%	1.0%
Iberia	4	1.7%	1.9%
Lafayette	4	2.6%	2.4%
St. Landry	4	2.0%	2.0%
St. Martin	4	3.6%	3.9%
Vermilion	4	2.7%	2.8%
Allen	5	2.4%	2.8%
Beauregard	5	2.1%	2.1%
Calcasieu	5	3.3%	3.2%
Cameron	5	6.5%	6.7%
Jefferson Davis	5	5.7%	5.8%
Avoyelles	6	3.9%	4.2%
Catahoula	6	8.2%	8.7%
Concordia	6	3.8%	3.6%
Grant	6	7.8%	7.9%

**Table 1 (continued): Comparison of December 2011
Forecasts to Past Estimates of Uninsured Children**

Parish	Region	Jun 2011 Estimates	Dec 2011 Forecast
La Salle	6	5.4%	5.6%
Rapides	6	2.1%	2.1%
Vernon	6	2.0%	2.0%
Winn	6	7.8%	8.2%
Bienville	7	5.7%	5.8%
Bossier	7	2.7%	2.6%
Caddo	7	3.7%	3.7%
Claiborne	7	6.6%	6.7%
De Soto	7	3.3%	3.2%
Natchitoches	7	2.9%	2.9%
Red River	7	6.2%	6.1%
Sabine	7	5.1%	5.2%
Webster	7	6.0%	5.9%
Caldwell	8	3.1%	3.4%
East Carroll	8	3.9%	4.1%
Franklin	8	1.8%	1.8%
Jackson	8	2.4%	2.5%
Lincoln	8	4.1%	4.4%
Madison	8	4.6%	4.7%
Morehouse	8	4.6%	4.5%
Ouachita	8	1.0%	0.9%
Richland	8	1.6%	1.8%
Tensas	8	6.5%	6.9%
Union	8	3.3%	3.2%
West Carroll	8	3.1%	3.7%
Livingston	9	3.0%	3.0%
St. Helena	9	9.8%	10.2%
St. Tammany	9	3.1%	3.0%
Tangipahoa	9	4.8%	4.8%
Washington	9	3.2%	3.5%

**Table 2: Comparison of December 2011 Forecasts
to Past Estimates of Uninsured Adults**

Parish	Region	2011 Estimates	Dec 2011 Forecast
Jefferson	1	19.8%	19.9%
Orleans	1	20.7%	20.7%
Plaquemines	1	21.0%	21.1%
St. Bernard	1	23.5%	23.5%
Ascension	2	16.2%	16.3%
East Baton Rouge	2	22.0%	22.1%
East Feliciana	2	21.3%	21.3%
Iberville	2	20.7%	20.7%
Pointe Coupee	2	19.5%	19.6%
West Baton Rouge	2	18.4%	18.4%
West Feliciana	2	25.2%	25.2%
Assumption	3	26.0%	26.1%
Lafourche	3	21.5%	21.6%
St. Charles	3	18.8%	18.9%
St. James	3	28.1%	28.2%
St. John The Baptist	3	26.1%	26.2%
St. Mary	3	28.5%	28.6%
Terrebonne	3	25.8%	25.8%
Acadia	4	26.2%	26.2%
Evangeline	4	25.3%	25.4%
Iberia	4	22.1%	22.1%
Lafayette	4	20.2%	21.3%
St. Landry	4	26.6%	26.7%
St. Martin	4	28.1%	28.2%
Vermilion	4	20.7%	20.8%
Allen	5	22.5%	22.5%
Beauregard	5	21.2%	21.3%
Calcasieu	5	21.3%	21.4%
Cameron	5	19.8%	19.9%
Jefferson Davis	5	22.1%	22.1%
Avoyelles	6	28.0%	28.0%
Catahoula	6	33.7%	33.8%
Concordia	6	27.5%	27.6%
Grant	6	30.9%	30.9%

**Table 2 (continued): Comparison of December 2011 Forecasts
to Past Estimates of Uninsured Adults**

Parish	Region	2011 Estimates	Dec 2011 Forecast
La Salle	6	22.3%	22.5%
Rapides	6	23.7%	23.7%
Vernon	6	20.3%	20.4%
Winn	6	32.2%	32.2%
Bienville	7	30.9%	30.9%
Bossier	7	17.8%	17.8%
Caddo	7	27.6%	27.7%
Claiborne	7	30.2%	30.3%
De Soto	7	28.1%	28.2%
Natchitoches	7	28.0%	28.1%
Red River	7	39.5%	39.6%
Sabine	7	29.9%	29.9%
Webster	7	33.5%	33.5%
Caldwell	8	30.8%	30.8%
East Carroll	8	38.7%	38.8%
Franklin	8	33.0%	33.0%
Jackson	8	23.5%	23.5%
Lincoln	8	22.2%	22.3%
Madison	8	36.3%	36.4%
Morehouse	8	28.6%	28.6%
Ouachita	8	25.7%	25.7%
Richland	8	30.2%	30.3%
Tensas	8	34.3%	34.4%
Union	8	30.9%	30.9%
West Carroll	8	29.7%	29.7%
Livingston	9	20.4%	20.5%
St. Helena	9	33.8%	33.9%
St. Tammany	9	16.1%	16.1%
Tangipahoa	9	28.2%	28.2%
Washington	9	24.4%	24.4%

Table 3: December 2011 Forecast—Estimated Number of Uninsured Individuals by Parish

		Children (Under 19)			Adults (19-64)		
Region Name	Region	2010 Census Population	2011 Percent Uninsured	Estimated Number Uninsured	2010 Census Population	2011 Percent Uninsured	Estimated Number Uninsured
Jefferson	1	114,787	3.9%	4456	281,530	19.9%	55,898
Orleans	1	120,193	5.2%	6234	276,166	20.7%	57,205
Plaquemines	1	8,165	4.7%	381	17,988	21.1%	3,792
St. Bernard	1	16,319	4.9%	798	40,240	23.6%	9,475
Ascension	2	27,248	2.1%	577	58,163	16.3%	9,485
East Baton Rouge	2	108,585	3.6%	3933	260,014	22.1%	57,449
East Feliciana	2	5,077	3.2%	160	13,199	21.3%	2,813
Iberville	2	8,286	3.6%	302	20,257	20.7%	4,194
Pointe Coupee	2	5,810	4.3%	249	13,310	19.6%	2,610
West Baton Rouge	2	5,761	0.6%	32	13,448	18.4%	2,478
West Feliciana	2	2,760	8.7%	241	11,060	25.2%	2,788
Assumption	3	6,017	4.3%	259	14,322	26.1%	3,737
Lafourche	3	24,023	2.3%	541	56,995	21.6%	12,311
St. Charles	3	14,197	1.7%	246	31,916	18.9%	6,026
St. James	3	5,850	3.4%	199	12,713	28.2%	3,590
St. John The Baptist	3	14,001	3.1%	435	28,967	26.2%	7,583
St. Mary	3	14,380	0.9%	128	30,487	28.6%	8,707
Terrebonne	3	30,390	3.1%	939	65,933	25.8%	17,039
Acadia	4	17,159	3.6%	625	35,067	26.2%	9,193
Evangeline	4	10,167	1.0%	103	21,120	25.4%	5,361
Iberia	4	21,553	1.9%	409	44,173	22.2%	9,784
Lafayette	4	53,652	2.4%	1279	124,888	21.3%	26,575
St. Landry	4	25,803	2.0%	516	52,241	26.7%	13,930
St. Martin	4	14,025	3.9%	545	30,834	28.2%	8,696
Vermilion	4	15,097	2.8%	417	33,111	20.8%	6,881
Allen	5	6,143	2.8%	169	15,917	22.6%	3,589
Beauregard	5	9,175	2.1%	189	21,430	21.3%	4,556
Calcasieu	5	49,915	3.2%	1600	113,242	21.4%	24,194
Cameron	5	2,351	6.7%	157	5,990	19.9%	1,190
Jefferson Davis	5	8,858	5.9%	518	18,248	22.1%	4,033
Avoyelles	6	11,136	4.2%	468	25,304	28.0%	7,096
Catahoula	6	2,548	8.7%	221	6,279	33.8%	2,120
Concordia	6	5,068	3.6%	184	11,143	27.6%	3,073

**Table 3 (continued): December 2011 Forecast—Estimated Number of Uninsured
Individuals by Parish**

Region Name	Region	2010 Census Population	2011 Percent Uninsured	Estimated Number Uninsured	2010 Census Population	2011 Percent Uninsured	Estimated Number Uninsured
Grant	6	5,345	7.9%	420	11,853	31.0%	3,668
La Salle	6	3,434	5.7%	194	8,508	22.5%	1,912
Rapides	6	34,512	2.1%	713	77,163	23.8%	18,326
Vernon	6	14,448	2.0%	283	29,110	20.4%	5,930
Winn	6	3,786	8.2%	309	9,850	32.2%	3,173
Bienville	7	3,893	5.8%	225	8,702	30.9%	2,689
Bossier	7	29,364	2.6%	771	65,359	17.8%	11,663
Caddo	7	67,272	3.7%	2493	150,604	27.7%	41,649
Claiborne	7	3,781	6.7%	254	9,500	30.3%	2,876
De Soto	7	7,126	3.2%	226	15,615	28.2%	4,398
Natchitoches	7	10,354	2.9%	302	23,463	28.1%	6,593
Red River	7	2,683	6.2%	165	5,372	39.6%	2,125
Sabine	7	6,110	5.2%	320	13,586	29.9%	4,066
Webster	7	10,249	5.9%	606	24,311	33.5%	8,151
Caldwell	8	2,557	3.4%	86	6,485	30.8%	1,999
East Carroll	8	2,617	4.2%	108	5,053	38.8%	1,959
Franklin	8	5,517	1.8%	97	11,705	33.0%	3,867
Jackson	8	3,765	2.5%	93	8,914	23.5%	2,093
Lincoln	8	9,836	4.4%	433	27,357	22.3%	6,091
Madison	8	3,681	4.7%	174	7,319	36.4%	2,661
Morehouse	8	8,058	4.5%	365	17,414	28.7%	4,988
Ouachita	8	41,075	0.9%	381	89,232	25.7%	22,947
Richland	8	5,495	1.8%	98	11,997	30.3%	3,633
Tensas	8	1,581	6.9%	109	3,578	34.4%	1,230
Union	8	5,782	3.3%	188	13,513	30.9%	4,179
West Carroll	8	2,830	3.7%	104	7,041	29.7%	2,093
Livingston	9	31,237	3.0%	932	69,924	20.5%	14,322
St. Helena	9	2,636	10.2%	269	6,112	33.9%	2,069
St. Tammany	9	60,441	3.0%	1805	140,253	16.1%	22,620
Tangipahoa	9	29,746	4.8%	1435	66,583	28.2%	18,795
Washington	9	11,941	3.5%	412	26,632	24.4%	6,507

Figure 1: December 2011 Uninsured Rates for Children (under 19) by Parish

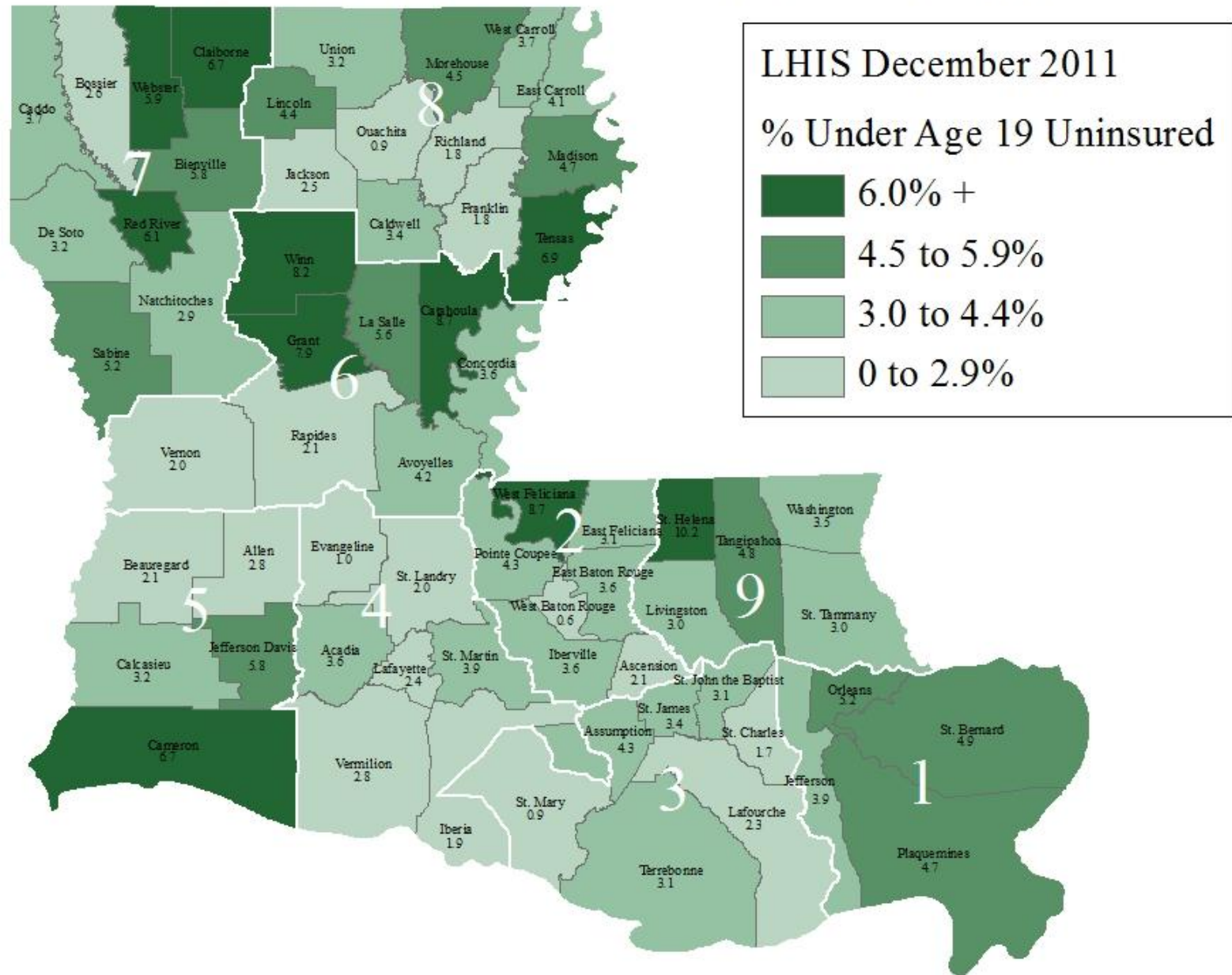


Figure 2: December 2011 Uninsured Rates for Adults (Age 19 through 64) by Parish

